
THE ACTS CHURCH 2:42
"EXPERIENCE REAL CHURCH"

June 16, 2013

TEXT: *John 14:1-9 KJV*

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. (2) In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. (4) And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. (5) Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? (6) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (7) If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. (8) Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. (9) Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

INTRO: The Rapture What-When-How?

Why does it matter what you believe?

"If you remove the imminent return of Christ you will remove the zeal for evangelizing"

What good does it do to study these things if you are not going to prepare…

How does one or how does a church prepare for …

I. *WHAT IS THE RAPTURE?*

A time when Christ returns to gather His saints according to His promise!

Although the Bible contains many references to the Rapture, there are four key passages which describe this momentous event.

1) John 14:1-3 - The Rapture is a time when Christ will ***RECEIVE*** His saints

*(The Rapture = **Reception** into Christ's arms)*

2) 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 - The Rapture is a time when Christ will ***RENEW*** (resurrect) His saints

*(The Rapture = **Transformation** from corruptible mortality)*

3) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - The rapture is a time when Christ will ***REUNITE*** His saints

*(The Rapture = **Reunion** with the dead in Christ)*

4) Matthew 24:22, 31, 40-42 - The Rapture is a time when Christ will ***REMOVE*** His saints

*(The Rapture = **Deliverance** from divine wrath)*

- **Christ in the clouds**
- **Sounding of the trumpet**
- **Loud shout**
- **Angels gathering the saints**

Scripture teaches that believers are to:

1. **Watch** for His coming
Matthew 24:42 *–"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."*

2. **Wait** for His coming
1 Corinthians 1:7 *– "So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

3. **Look** for His coming
Titus 2:13 *– "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."*

4. **Hope** for His coming
1 Peter 1:13 *– "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."*

5. **Love** His coming
2 Timothy 4:8 *– "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."*

6. **Be faithful** until His coming
1 Timothy 6:14 *– "That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

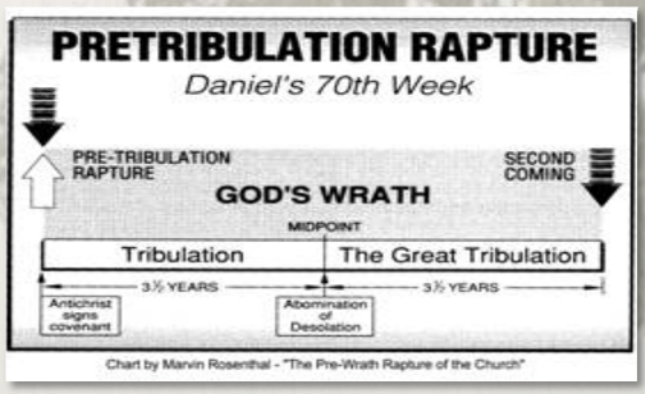
1 Peter 1:7 *– "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."*

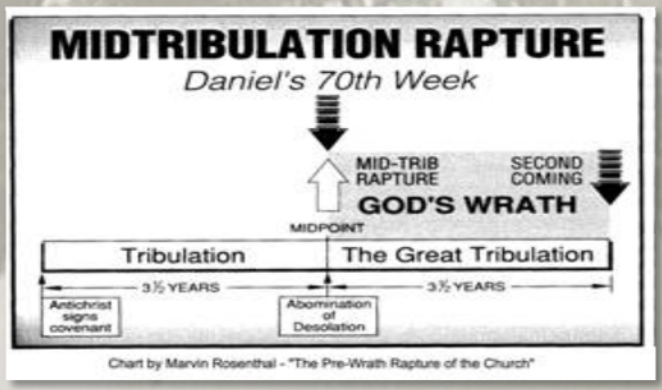
7. **Remain patient** until His coming
James 5:7-8 *– "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."*

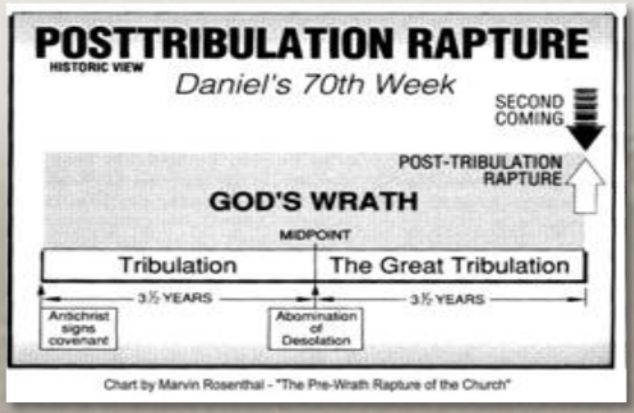
II. *When is the Rapture?*

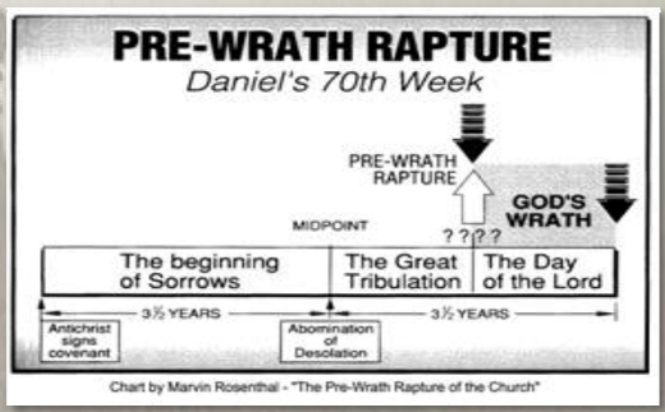
Acts 1:6-11 KJV

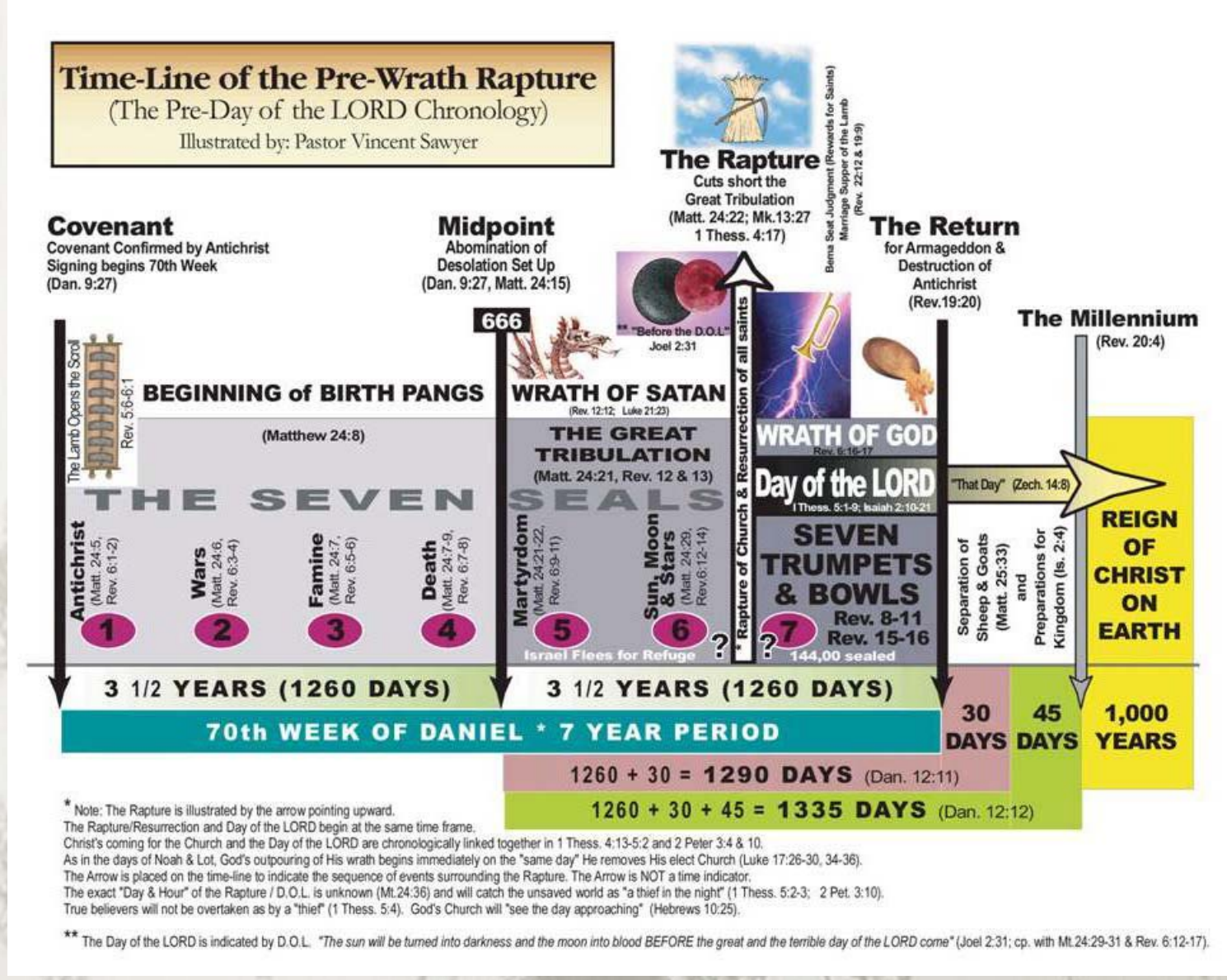
When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? (7) And he said unto them, ***It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.*** (8) ***But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth***. (9) And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. (10) And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; (11) Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, ***why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.***











WHAT IS THE PRE-WRATH RAPTURE? Vincent Sawyer, Pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Corona, NY

III. How Then Shall we Live?

2 Peter 3:1-18 KJV

This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: (2) That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: (3) Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers,

walking after their own lusts, (4) And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. (5) For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: (6) Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: (7) But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (8) But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (9) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (10) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. (11) Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, (12) Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? (13) Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. (14) Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. (15) And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; (16) As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. (17) Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. (18) But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.